

# W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

## Dits & Bits

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### ★ In This Issue ★

220-MHz Ham Band to Lose 40%?  
New Novice Examination Info...  
December 1986 VE Program Stats  
Amateur Radio Call Signs Issued  
January 1987 Licensing Stats  
Element 3 Separates to 3A and 3B  
New License Preparation Material  
"The Woodpecker Project"  
YASME DX-pedition Update  
VECs Maintain Question Pools  
Flying to Dayton HamVention?  
More on Frequency Coordination  
and much, much more!



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## FCC Proposes to Reduce 220-MHz Ham Band!

In a stunning action, the FCC's Office of Science and Technology has followed up four commercial interest petitions requesting 220-MHz allocations for narrowband business operation with a NPRM that hands the first two megahertz of the amateur 1.25 meter band (220-225 MHz) to the Land Mobile Service. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (released February 12th) proposes to:

- (1.) Maintain the existing 216-220 MHz band allocation,
- (2.) ...allocate the 220-222 MHz band on an exclusive basis to the Land Mobile Service for both government and nongovernment operations, and;
- (3.) ...allocate the 222-225 MHz band on an exclusive basis to the Amateur Service.

To better understand the game of spectrum "monopoly" and the what's and why's of this FCC blockbuster, let's first discuss the...

### BACKGROUND OF THE 216-225 MHz BAND....

Prior to the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference, the 216-225 MHz band was primarily allocated to Government Radiolocation with secondary 216-220 MHz aeronautical/fixed and land mobile telemetry and 220-225 amateur service allocations.

[Some definitions: Radiolocation is a radio wave positioning service for other than navigation purposes. The Fixed Service

operates radio telecommunications between specified points, while the Land Mobile Service communicates between base and earth-bound mobile stations ...or terrestrial mobile-to-mobile. It is commonly known as the "business band."]

During the preparation for WARC-79 it was determined that the 216-225 MHz band was not sufficient to meet future U.S. radiolocation requirements. The band became a prime candidate for re-allocation.

To partially accommodate an identified Maritime Mobile Service public correspondence need, WARC-79 primarily designated the 216-220 MHz band Maritime Mobile and Fixed Service. The 220-225 MHz slice went to the Mobile, Fixed and Amateur Services on a primary basis. WARC-79 also provided for the phasing out 220 MHz radiolocation operations.

Following up the WARC-79 accord, the Commission assigned 220-225 MHz to the amateur, fixed and mobile (non-government) services. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (implementing the government spectrum allocations) assigned the band on a coequal primary basis to the Fixed and Mobile Services. It was also agreed between the FCC and the NTIA that fixed and mobile operations would not be initiated until an allocation plan was developed for the sharing of the band by government and non-

March 1, 1987

government users.

### INDUSTRY PETITIONS FOR 220 MHZ....

The need for additional land mobile spectrum has long been recognized. The Land Mobile Communications Council (RM-4829) and Sideband Technology, Inc. (RM-4831) submitted their wish lists in the summer of 1984. LMCC simply asked for more 220-MHz spectrum. STI was more specific. They wanted 6 MHz ...from 216 to 222 MHz.

A year later, a firm with the unusual name of LAOAD Radio and Microwave Communications Consultants requested a 4 MHz reallocation from 216-220 MHz. Cubic Communications recently filed a fourth petition similar to that of LAOAD. The petitioners all had visions of utilizing new ACSB (narrow-band) voice and low speed data systems with channels as close as 5 kHz.

The Association of Radio Reading Services (ARRS) who had asked for 500 kHz on a nationwide basis (RM-5434) to provide spectrum for radio reading services, had their petition denied by the Commission on January 30, 1987.

### WHAT THE FCC DID ...AND WHY!....

Ordinarily the Commission's Private Radio Bureau, which administers both the §Part 90 (Private Land Mobile) and §Part 97 (Amateur Service), would have researched and suggested to the Commissioners how to resolve the business band spectrum shortfall. Since (§Part 2) reallocation and new technology matters were involved, however, the issue was assigned to the Commission's "Office of Science and Technology" for handling. Unfortunately, they know less about amateur matters than does the PRB. Ray Kowalski did tell us, however, that the OST proposal was "co-ordinated" with his office.

In a nutshell, OST simply was persuaded that the 220-225 MHz band "is presently underutilized" and that the Land Mobile Service has needs that can be met in this region of the spectrum"; a direct quote from the NPRM.

More quotes: "The propagation characteristics

of this band make it useful for land mobile operations. Further, a land mobile allocation in this region of the spectrum would provide an opportunity for the further development of narrowband technologies."

"An allocation of 2 megahertz to the land mobile service with channels of 5 kHz bandwidth would provide 200 channel pairs. Spectrum efficient technologies that use alternative bandwidths may also be considered."

"...a land mobile allocation in this region of the spectrum would provide an opportunity for the further development of narrowband technologies. Therefore, we are proposing a 2 megahertz allocation to the land mobile service in the 220-222 MHz portion of this band. The remaining 3 megahertz, 222-225 MHz, is proposed to be made an exclusive allocation for the amateur service."

### THE 216-220 MHz PROPOSAL....

The NPRM stated that no changes were being proposed for the 4 megahertz under the 1.25 meter amateur band since the inland waterways communications system has not had a chance to develop. "It is also our belief that the geographical limitations on land mobile operations at 216-220 MHz necessary to protect broadcast TV channel 13 operations would be so restrictive that an allocation in this portion of the spectrum would provide little relief for land mobile. This is particularly the case in the major cities where land mobile demand is the greatest."

OST also anticipated a U.S. border telecommunications conflict if land mobile were permitted 216-220 MHz operation since "there is no international land mobile allocation in this portion of the band." Instead they looked toward allocating a portion of the...

### THE 220-225 MHz BAND....

The following Office of Science and Technology assessment of the amateur 1.25 meter band is interesting:

"The 220-225 MHz band, which is allocated to the amateur, fixed, mobile and radio-location services, is currently utilized only by

# W5YI REPORT.....

Page #3

March 1, 1987

the amateur and radiolocation services... The amateur usage is mainly for base/mobile repeater operations, along with some special operations," (i.e. remote control and experimental operations such as packet radio and moon bounce communications.)

"The Commission is cognizant of the services performed by the amateur community in this band and the other amateur bands. We are also aware of the investment by the amateur community in equipment in this band. However, the loading of this band is light in comparison with the 144-148 MHz amateur band, which supports similar operations. The 144-148 MHz band supports over six times as many repeater operations (repeaters/MHz) as the 220-225 MHz band." (OST used the 1985-86 ARRL Repeater Directory as the basis of that contention.)

"The majority of the amateur operations in the 220-225 MHz band are base/mobile repeater operations and are located in the 222-225 MHz portion of the band. Accordingly, we believe that reallocating 2 megahertz, 220-222 MHz, to the Land Mobile Service would have minimal impact on current operators and would provide much-needed spectrum for land mobile operations."

"Further, in view of the current light loading of the 222-225 MHz band, and the availability of other amateur bands, it appears that the future needs of the amateur service will continue to be satisfied. We anticipate that this proposed action will have little economic impact on amateur operators since amateur equipment operating in the 220-222 MHz band could be modified at minimal expense to operate in the 222-225 MHz portion of the band."

In deleting the unimplemented Fixed Service allocation in the 220-225 MHz band, the FCC said that the "Fixed Services can be accommodated in higher frequency bands, whereas land mobile use is best suited below 1 GHz."

The FCC said they felt that this proposal would also increase market opportunities for radio manufacturers. Comments close on April 6, 1987, reply comments by April 21.

## ARRL ON PREVIOUS REPORT COMMENTS....

We received a note from Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President of the ARRL commenting on some of our musings...

(1.) He said it is regrettable for us to associate Novice Enhancement with Incentive Licensing though "within the bounds of fair comment for you to say so..." Dave said the League has been trying to introduce Novice privileges at 20-MHz for years.

(2.) On Novice power levels: "...there never was any intent on the League's part to have different power levels in the 10-meter segment for General's and above depending on the date of obtaining the license. It would have taken a most curious construction of Part 97 to accomplish such a objective, and we never proposed such in our draft."

(3.) Sumner maintains that neither the ARRL or the IARU is oblivious to the potential HF broadcasting threat to the ham bands. "any threat to the Amateur Service will arise not from the (current ITU HF broadcasting) conference, but rather from some possible future conference should this one fail to resolve the HF BC issues... I know of no basis on which ARRL could or should have requested one of the limited number of private-sector seats on the U.S. delegation ...and if we had any such delegate would, of course, have been bound to support the U.S. position, even if it was anti-thetical to the Amateur Service."

• While the FCC is considering a system to assign amateur call signs of choice, we understand that Canada is considering a proposal to do away with special event prefixes.

## NEW NOVICE EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Basically the Novice Test is administered in the same manner as previous except that (effective March 21, 1987) two General Class (and higher) level amateurs are required as VE's to administer both the Element 1(A) 5 word-per-minute Morse code test and the Element 2 written examination. You will have to "squeeze" in the information on the old (June 1984 or July 1985) FCC Form 610 forms (or the second VE can use the blank area above Section II-A) until the new applications are available.

March 1, 1987

### THE NEW NOVICE QUESTION POOL....

The following is a breakdown of the changes in the new Element 2 Novice question pool as agreed upon by the Question Pool Committee. This pool will be put into effect on March 21, 1987, by each of the VEC's.

We have just completed a new W5YI Novice Manual which lists all of the 302 Element 2 questions, multiple choices and correct answers. Included are three sample tests. Cost is: \$4.00 plus \$1.25 postage. In addition, sets of 5 different Novice tests (with answers) are available to Volunteer Examiners (General Class and above) at \$2.00 plus \$1.00 postage.

**TOPIC 2A:** 35% of Novice Test (9 questions)  
(Previously was 7 questions)

#### FCC Rules for the Amateur Radio Service

8	Existing questions with revised answers
62	Existing questions - no changes
25	New questions
95	Total questions

**TOPIC 2B:** 5% of Novice Test (2 questions)  
(Previously was 1 question)

#### Amateur Station Operating Procedures

10	Existing questions - no changes
24	New questions
34	Total questions

**TOPIC 2C:** 5% of Novice Test (2 questions)  
(Previously was 1 question)

#### Radio Wave Propagation Characteristics

10	Existing questions
7	New questions
17	Total questions

**TOPIC 2D:** 15% of Novice Test (4 questions)  
(Previously was 3 questions)

#### Amateur Radio Practices

30	Existing questions
12	New questions
42	Total questions

**TOPIC 2E:** 15% of Novice Test (4 questions)  
(Previously was 3 questions)

#### Electrical Principles/Amateur Radio Equip.

30	Existing questions
3	New questions
33	Total questions

**TOPIC 2F:** 5% of Novice Test (2 questions)  
(Previously was 1 question)

#### Circuit Components/Amateur Station Equip.

10	Existing questions
0	New questions
10	Total questions

**TOPIC 2G:** 5% of Novice Test (2 questions)  
(Previously was 1 question)

#### Practical Circuits/Amateur Station Equip.

10	Existing questions
7	New questions
17	Total questions

**TOPIC 2H:** 5% of Novice Test (2 questions)  
(Previously was 1 question)

#### Signals & Emissions/Amateur Stations

10	Existing questions
16	New questions
26	Total questions

**TOPIC 2I:** 10% of Novice Test (3 questions)  
(Previously was 2 questions)

20	Existing questions
8	New questions
28	Total questions

#### Makeup of New Novice Question Pool

8	Questions with revised answers
192	Existing questions - no changes
102	New questions
302	Questions in new Element 2 Pool

● Since written credit is now authorized, Element 1(A) 5 wpm Morse code and/or Element 2 written examination credit certificates may be issued. The FCC has also said that if volunteer examiners do not have the needed certificate blanks, a photocopy of the Novice application can be used by the applicant as evidence of passing their Novice requirements. This will enable Novices to take higher class VE/VEC administered examinations while awaiting receipt of their license. VEC's still need the new Novice license, however, before sending the upgrade application to the FCC.

● Remember (effective January 1, 1987) that all Morse Code examinations must contain all letters/numerals and selected punctuation and operating (procedure) signs. (We have 'legal' 5-wpm code test tapes for VE's available at \$3.95 plus \$1.00 postage.)

### DECEMBER 1986 VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

December	1984	1985	1986
No. of VEC's	51	77	76
<b>Sessions Held:</b>			
Test Sessions Per VEC:	2.55	3.81	4.84
No. Persons Per Session:	14.05	12.46	9.20
ARRL-VEC Sessions	52.6%	43.8%	
W5YI-VEC	17.1%	26.8%	
DeVRY-VEC	4.4%	6.3%	
C.Ala.-VEC	7.9%	6.3%	
All Others:	18.0%	16.8%	
Total Sessions/Month:	130	293	368
Year-to-Date Sessions:	413	3223	3784

### Elements Administered:

ARRL-VEC Elements	55.6%	55.4%	
W5YI-VEC	16.6%	20.4%	
C.Ala.-VEC	5.8%	5.8%	
DeVRY-VEC	3.1%	4.3%	
All Others:	18.9%	14.5%	
No. Elements Per Person	1.50	1.50	1.48
Total Elements/Month:	2741	5470	5028
Year-to-Date Elements:	12633	62589	61921

### Applicants Tested:

Applicants Per Session:	14.05	12.46	9.20
ARRL-VEC Applicants	54.6%	58.6%	
W5YI-VEC	17.2%	20.2%	
C.Ala.-VEC	5.8%	5.3%	
DeVRY-VEC	3.1%	4.6%	
All Others	19.3%	11.3%	

Total Applicants/Month: 1827 3651 3386

Year-to-Date Applicants: 8599 41439 42422

Pass Rate/Month (All) 49.7% 62.0% 58.5%

Pass Rate/Year (All) 47.5% 58.1% 59.7%

Pass Rate: W5YI (Dec.) 71.1% 59.5% 65.4%

[Source: FCC, Personal Radio Br., Wash. D.C.]

### PREDICTING SOLAR CYCLE 22 MAXIMUM

There is evidence that solar minimum may have passed. The time of minimum is important because it relates to the timing and size of the next solar cycle. The traditional definition of solar minimum is the time of lowest smoothed (averaged) sunspot numbers. The sunspot numbers have been well measured for over a dozen cycles (since 1848) and offer the longest data base for predicting the size of the new solar cycle. Based on a mid-1986 solar minimum, the next cycle is predicted to peak in 1989. Another prediction has the minimum being reached during the third quarter of 1987 with a 120 maximum predicted smoothed sunspot number for 1991.

### AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS....

issued as of the first of February:

Radio District:	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Adv. Tech/Gen.	Gp."C" Novice	Gp."D" Novice
0	NW0L	KE0KO	N0HRI	KA0ZHF
1	NI1U	KC1BY	N1EOU	KA1PNI
2	NV2K	KD2XU	N2GXC	KB2CKZ
3	NF3D	KD3AQ	N3FHI	KA3QWP
4 (*)	AA4YU	KK4FO	N4PJN	KB4WNP
5 (*)	WU5P	KF5UR	N5KDO	KB5BWH
6	AA6AI	KI6OT	N6OTB	KB6PXJ
7	NY7W	KE7XE	N7IWS	KB7ANQ
8	NV8H	KE8JL	N8HZM	KB8BDH
9	NQ9L	KE9CC	N9GGV	KA9WQF
N.Mariana I.	AH0E	AH0AC	KH0AI	WH0AAG
Guam	AH2Y	AH2BN	KH2CH	WH2AKP
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6HN	NH6HY	WH6BOE
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer.Samoa	AH8C	AH8AC	KH8AD	WH8AAW
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AC	KH9AD	WH9AAF
Alaska	(**)	AL7IQ	NL7JQ	WL7BNB
Virgin Is.	KP2R	KP2BB	NP2BZ	WP2AFI
Puerto Rico	WP4W	KP4MA	WP4CC	WP4GPQ

(NOTE: [\*] = 2-by-1 format 'Group A' call signs have run out in the 4th and 6th call districts and calls from the AA-AK are now being issued to Extra 4's and 6's. The 5th call district has only 140 2X1 Extra Class call signs left - enough until only July or August. (Remember that it takes about two months to get the call sign assigned once you upgrade.)  
 [\*\*] = Extra class amateurs in both Alaska and Hawaii have been issued Group "B" call signs for some time. Puerto Rico is next. PR only has 3 unassigned Extra class call signs!)

• The Heath Company advises that they have special closeout prices on their: Packet Terminal Controller/TNC Status Indicator/HF filter system. Kit was: \$299.95, now \$129.95 on first come/first serve basis. Another system special is on the RTTY Interface kit. Originally \$249.95 - now \$179.95. Contact: Bill Stewart, Heath Company; Hilltop Road; St. Joseph, MI 49085 (Tel: 616-982-3210)

• Michael E. Whatley, WA4D, has written FCC Commissioner Mimi Dawson volunteering to serve on the Amateur Ethics Committee we wrote about in our January 1st newsletter.

March 1, 1987

We are delaying publishing our new VE Manual until updated VEC instructions are received from the FCC's Personal Radio Branch.

● **Offer to other VEC's!** If you are having difficulty in quickly responding to the new Element 2, Element 3A or Element 3B test requirement by March 21st, please contact us. We can immediately supply you with the needed tests until you can gear up to do it yourself. We will prepare your tests at our cost. Your tests will not duplicate ours - or any other VEC for that matter. New test generation is merely a case of pushing some computer buttons and out they come laser printed!

● **CODE TESTS, CANADIAN STYLE!** The DOC (Department of Communications) has published the following requirements for Morse code "attestation" by three volunteer amateurs. No testing fees are allowed. A sending and receiving test of three minutes of perfect copy plain text is required, either at 10 or 15 words per minute. Minimum pass mark is 100%. Required characters are all letters, numerals, plus period, comma, question mark, dash and slant bar, but no procedure signs. "Farnsworth" spacing (longer spaces between characters) is not allowed. Applicants have two minutes to correct or fill in their copy before submission to the examiners.

## THE WOODPECKER PROJECT....

The ITU nations attending the five week shortwave broadcasting WARC, will not only be looking into HF documents submitted by their member nations, but also a 63-page "Woodpecker" report submitted by a group of volunteer shortwave listening enthusiasts recruited through announcements in radio publications and on broadcasts of popular foreign SWL "DX" programs.

The Association of North American Radio Clubs', Robert Horvitz, chairman of ANARC's Over-the-Horizon Radar Committee, completed the study for presentation at the 1987 World Administrative Radio Conference for High Frequency Broadcasting in Geneva meeting now until early March. He plans to attend the Conference the last week. The very professionally completed study was funded by selling "Woodpecker" T-shirts at \$10.00 each!

The report, based on data meticulously gathered by 96 SWL monitoring stations from 18 countries, describes patterns of spectrum occupancy and interference caused to international broadcasts (and HF amateur radio operation) by powerful pulse emissions known colloquially as the "Woodpecker." Heard worldwide since 1976, these signals step erratically through the high frequency band 24 hours a day.

Amateur radio operators first reported reported the existence of the Woodpecker to the FCC on July 12, 1976. The Woodpecker caused interference in the 20 meter ham band. Thirty-seven separate direction finding fixes place the source of the Woodpecker as being located in the Kiev-Gomel area of the Soviet Union.

The ITU sent a complaining telex to the Soviet Union on October 25, 1976. The response was that the Soviet Union was carrying out "tests" with radio installations operating in the HF bands and that "measures are being taken to reduce any such interference." The interference persisted and more complaints were lodged.

The Woodpecker's bandwidth is 15-70 kHz, pulse rate 10 per second, stepping between 5 to 28 MHz causing harmful interference to all HF communications services on a daily basis. The Soviet "test" stations are believed to be high frequency over-the-horizon radars. Recently, more Woodpeckers located in Siberia and north of the Black Sea have shown up on the HF bands..

ANARC hopes that the HF WARC will will adopt a resolution declaring that "High powered pulse transmissions within the HF Broadcasting Service Bands are incompatible with the rational utilization of those bands by stations in the Broadcasting Service. Elimination of these emissions is essential to the development and implementation of effective plans for the HF broadcasting bands."

(Copies of the report: \$7.00 from: ANARC, 1634-15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009)

## YASME, GOOD AND BAD LUCK....

Another note has been received from the YASME DXers Lloyd/W6KG and Iris/W6QL Colvin. This one postmarked January 28th from Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. Iris also

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?  
under "The W5YI Report" Program? If so, please send a copy

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or

included a full color photo of herself, Lloyd and Prem, 3D8FE, taken at Mauritius Island. Iris said that they concluded their S79KG Seycheles Islands operation with 9,000 QSO's and 130 countries on January 27th.

"We were very lucky. We arrived at the airport late in the afternoon. The information desk had a list of ten hotels to choose from. We asked them to give us one that was on the way to town from the airport. They then confirmed reservations for us at the Eureka Guest House. When we arrived at the hotel, we were surprised to see a tri-band beam on a 60 foot tower. It turned out that this is the former QTH of VQ9R who departed the island ten years ago. We used VQ9R's beam the first night but the transmission line was damaged, the rotator would not turn and some of the rubber ends of the traps were missing. With great reluctance, we installed our own tri-band beam on our own telescopic mast just ten feet behind the one owned by VQ9R. We often wonder how much interaction there was between the two beams. In any case it worked out great!"

But Iris' luck ran out. She broke her hip in the Maldives, and is now recovering from surgery in Nowaloka Hospital in Columbo, Sri Lanka. She is eager to leave the hospital and resume her DXpedition.

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## VECs TO MAINTAIN QUESTION POOLS....

The Federal Register of February 12th details that the FCC has denied the ARRL's December 10th 11th hour "Request for Stay" of the rules turning maintenance of the various question pools over to the VEC's.

ARRL had requested that the Report and Order which became effective December 31, 1986, be stayed pending final action on its Petition for Reconsideration. They wanted the FCC to continue to develop and revise the amateur radio operator examination questions.

The FCC said "Before a grant of a request for stay is warranted, a fourfold test must be met:

- (1.) Petitioner must demonstrate a likelihood of success on the merits of the Petition for Reconsideration;
- (2.) a failure to grant a stay would lead to

petitioner's irreparable injury;

- (3.) granting a stay would not harm other interested parties; and
- (4.) the stay would be in the public interest."

PRB Chief, Mike Fitch, concluded that the League had not demonstrated that a stay should be granted. "While ARRL has not met the first requirement for grant of a stay, we consider that, as a practical matter, its concerns have already been satisfied. At the August 8, 1986, Conference of Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators (VECs), the participants agreed unanimously to maintain the existing examination questions until January 30, 1988."

"In the interim, the VECs will cooperate in developing a common pool of examination questions. We have since stated in our Public Notice of December 19, 1986, that we expect all VEC's to adhere to this plan of action. Thus while ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration is pending, the status quo will be maintained."

The League is well aware that their Petition in all likelihood will be denied and have embarked on a path of cooperating with all other VECs. The cooperation actually has been outstanding. With the able assistance of Jim Haynie/WB5JBP (new West Gulf ARRL Director) the ARRL quickly worked with other VEC's in coming up with a workable plan for the new Novice, Technician and General Class question pools.

The VEC Question Pool Committee quickly accepted the new Novice questions and split of Element 3 into 3A and 3B as interim pools until more time can be devoted to revising them after January 30, 1988. It looks like the system will work just fine!

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## FLYING TO THE DAYTON HAMVENTION?

Check out the extra low fares ...particularly from Piedmont and American. Piedmont Airlines maintains a "hub" in Dayton, Ohio, and is offering special fares to those attending the 1987 Dayton HamVention, April 24-26.

Basically three fares are offered to HamVentioners: (1.) 35% discount off standard coach fares; (2.) "Ultimate Super Saver"; and (3.) "Maxi Saver." All fares have an additional "5% off HamVention" discount if you

March 1, 1987

call this special toll-free "800" convention number:

1-800-334-8644 Other than from No. Carolina  
1-800-251-5720 Ext. 2224 from North Carolina  
or from Canadian 519, 416 area codes.

Mention the "Special HamVention Deal" set up by W5YI with Donna Stirewalt/Convention Specialist. (Even lower round trip group fares are available when 10 or more passengers are originating together. Again talk to Donna.)

Maxi Saver is the lowest fare ...Ultimate Super Saver about 5% higher. The airline industry is locked in a "competitive low fare war" right now! Be sure you ask for the lowest fare and check other airlines. The "Super-/Maxi Saver" seats are limited on each flight and you must stay over a Saturday night to qualify. Usual 30 day advance booking is now down to only two days. Due to the Easter travel peak, Ultimate Super and Maxi Saver fares are slightly higher if you fly back on Sunday, April 26th. Fly back on Monday, April 27, to save \$\$\$\$.

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## FREQUENCY COORDINATION - EQUAL TIME

We wrote about a repeater frequency coordination dispute in Southern California as viewed by Karl Pagel/N6BVU in our December 1st issue. Pagel is president of the "220 SMA" (220 Spectrum Management Association), the ARRL (Repeater Directory) recognized coordinator in Southern California. More recently he was appointed Chairman of VRAC, the League's VHF Repeater Advisory Committee. An opposing group, the "220 FCC" (220 Frequency Coordination Commission) also claims to be the rightful coordinator.

The struggle has erupted into a legal battle royal deluxe! Lewis DePayne/KA6RBJ and Daniel Granda/KA6VHC head up the 220-FCC. While we tried to get their side of the story before, both apparently have unlisted telephones. DePayne has written us and asked that we print his view of 220-MHz frequency coordination in Southern California.

(Quote) "On July 21, 1980, Daniel Granda/KA6VHC applied for frequency coordination with the 220-SMA. On or about May 10, 1986, the SMA denied him coordination. Mr.

Granda had been successfully operating his repeaters since 1981 on two clear frequencies, but the SMA said that they were reserving the pairs for use by Mexico ...setting international policy without authority. In fact, the Federal Communications Commission took a RTTY station off the air which was interfering with Mr. Granda's repeater (FCC Case #LB-82-299)."

"Despite Mr. Granda's appeals to the SMA, they insisted that the frequencies were reserved for Mexico. They then coordinated another ham's repeater on one of those frequencies, within a few miles of Mr. Granda's repeater. That particular frequency is now useless in Los Angeles. The SMA then wrote Mr. Granda to tell him that they were denying him coordination for interfering with the other ham!."

"After careful examination of 220 SMA records, I found that they had also coordinated repeaters and remotes in parts of the 220 band which violated FCC rules 47 CFR §97.61(c) and §97.61(d). The SMA openly admitted doing this in a letter they issued on February 23, 1985, and even stated that they 'recognize the existence of previously coordinated systems in this band...!'"

"After speaking with the FCC legal counsel, it became clear that it would be difficult to recognize a group which had fostered the violation of FCC rules and regulations. Because of this, I started the 220 MHz Frequency Coordination Commission. To avoid the problems which the SMA encountered, we make extensive use of legal counsel in our activities. We immediately grandfathered all repeaters which have been in operation for over one year, and are moving forward from there. I expressed a willingness to work with the SMA on coordination issues, but they rejected my offer."

"It doesn't bother me that the SMA does not recognize us - as long as the FCC does." (End Quote)

DePayne also gave a P.O. Box where new members could apply for 220-FCC membership or further information but it is not the desire of this publication to promote either the 220-SMA or the 220-FCC. Write them at their Call Book addresses.